Management Area 8.3 - Experimental Forests

Map:

Shaded area depicts Management Area 8.3. There are no Management Area 8.3 areas on the Huron National Forest.

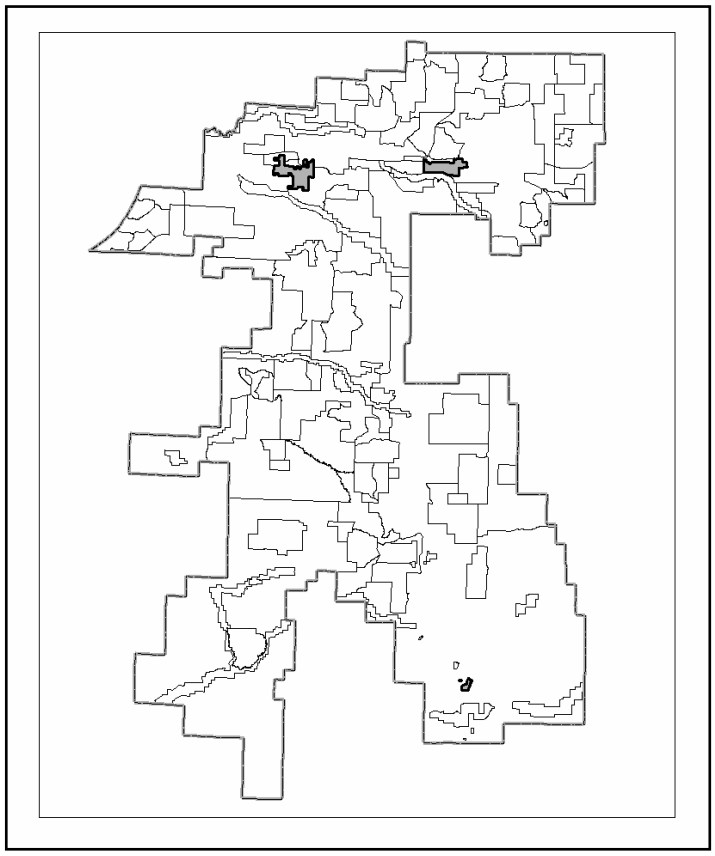

Figure III-18. Management Area 8.3 on the Manistee National Forest

Purpose:

Management of designated Experimental Forests will provide a land base for research activities.

Landscape Description:

This prescription area contains approximately 1 percent of all National Forest System lands on the Huron-Manistee National Forests.

Table III-13 identifies Experimental Forests on the Huron-Manistee National Forests.

Table III-13. Experimental Forests on the Huron-Manistee National Forests.

Experimental Forest	Description	Location
Udell Experimental Forest	This 3,845-acre unit was established in June 1961. This area provides a land base for long-range watershed management research.	Manistee National Forest
Newaygo Experimental Forest	This 460-acre unit was established in 1960. This area provides a land base for research studies.	Manistee National Forest
Pine River Experimental Forest	This 2,785-acre unit was established in December 1954. This area provides a land base for research to study various timber management techniques	Manistee National Forest

Goals and Objectives and Desired Future Condition:

Goals and Objectives:

- The experimental forests will be managed as a roaded natural setting.
- The Huron-Manistee National Forests and North Central Research Station shall encourage appropriate use of experimental forests by scientists, educators and managers.
- Provide a variety of management activities so that research opportunities exist to evaluate the effects of management practices.

Desired Future Condition:

Management direction for Experimental Forests is established by the North Central Research Station, St. Paul, MN.

There are approximately 2,200 acres of designated old growth in this management area.

Standards and Guidelines:

2400 TIMBER MANAGEMENT

I The following Standards and Guidelines apply to both even- and uneven-aged silvicultural systems.

A Uneven- and even-aged systems will be used. They will be consistent with area management objectives and the following restrictions:

1 Even-aged management will be the primary silvicultural system used. **G**

2 The uneven-aged system will normally be used only in northern hardwoods. **G**

3 Seasonal restrictions on time of entry for timber harvests may be applied to protect other resources, **G**

activities and facilities.

4 Standard cutting methods such as single-tree and group selection, shelterwood, seed-tree and clearcutting may be used. **S**

5 Silvicultural standards will incorporate genetic improvement principles, practices and programs. **G**

6 Regeneration activities:

a Site preparation activities can include mechanical, prescribed fire, hand and chemical. **G**

b For revegetation, use native vegetative species for timber production purposes. Revegetation activities can include natural–preferred–artificial or seeding methods. **G**

c Fertilization may be used to establish vegetation on disturbed areas. Manage use of fertilizers or soil enrichments to prevent movement into lakes and streams. **G**

II The following Standards and Guidelines apply only to the even-aged silvicultural system:

A Temporary openings created by the application of the even-aged silvicultural system will be separated by a stand of at least 10 acres, except in wildlife emphasis areas. **G**

B Firewood gathering will be allowed except in old growth areas. A permit is required. **G**

C Intermediate treatment guidelines include:

1 Using mechanical, chemical or hand release methods in all vegetative types. **G**

2 Pruning for timber, visual improvement, safety and wildlife. **G**

3 Thinning. **G**

4 Using precommercial thinning to maintain winter thermal cover for deer in lowland hardwood and conifer types. **G**

D Harvest guidelines include the following:

1 The clearcutting method may be used only for jack, red and white pines; oak; aspen; lowland conifers and northern hardwoods with adequate advanced regeneration. **G**

2 The seed-tree cutting method may be used only for jack, red and white pines and lowland conifers. **G**

3 The shelterwood cutting method may be used only for jack, red and white pines; all oak; northern hardwoods; lowland conifers and lowland hardwoods. **G**

E Allow commercial thinning in all vegetative types. Precommercial thinning in all types is allowed if necessary **G**

to meet objectives of timber, wildlife and/or visual quality objectives.

2600 WILDLIFE, FISH AND SENSITIVE PLANT HABITAT MANAGEMENT

I Regional Forester Sensitive Species and their Management

A Standards and Guidelines for the management of Regional Forester Sensitive Species are:

1 Cerulean Warbler

a Timber management and road construction activities should not occur in occupied habitat within 400 feet of a cerulean warbler nest tree–approximately a 10-acre area– during the breeding season. G

2 Within core northern hardwood habitat areas:

a In 80 percent of the high-quality mesic northern hardwood (ginseng) habitat: G

1 Permit non-ground disturbing activities that mimic natural disturbance regimes common to this habitat. G

2 Permit maintenance of existing improvements. G

3 In the remaining 20 percent of the high-quality mesic northern hardwood habitat, maintain 80 percent crown closure. G

4 Allow potential high-quality mesic northern hardwood forest habitat adjacent to core areas to convert to actual high-quality mesic northern hardwood forest habitat. G

5 New motorized trails will not be constructed in cedar swamps, hardwood conifer swamps and subirrigated forests unless there are no other reasonable routes. G

B Manage wetlands identified as good and excellent sandhill crane nesting habitat to improve habitat conditions for this species. G

C Develop and implement management direction for each osprey nesting area and great blue heron colony. G

2700 SPECIAL USES MANAGEMENT

I Decisions on special uses involving National Forest System lands will be made on an individual basis. G

II Do not allow developed organizational camps. G

2800 MINERALS AND GEOLOGY

I Federal oil and gas leases within experimental forests will contain a no-surface-occupancy stipulation. S

5100 FIRE MANAGEMENT

I Suppression

A Minimize use of tractor plows, retardant, constructed helispots and wheeled vehicles. G

7700 TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

I Oil and Gas

A All temporary roads will be planned and constructed to be revegetated within one year of termination of contract, lease or permit. G